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| 10/751,618 | 01/06/2004 | Stuart Franklin Gray | | 2456 |

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| EXAMINER |
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PAIK, STEVE S

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2876

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,618

Applicant(s)

GRAY, STUART FRANKLIN

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of above improper language contained in the Abstract. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1-7 are objected to because of the following informalities: Each claim should end with a period instead of a semicolon. Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: "a more reliable means for identifying counterfeit..." and "will significantly reduce counterfeit paper currency" are not definitive and clearly reciting the invention. Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities: the recitation in the parentheses is not acceptable and appropriate. Appropriate correction is required.

6. Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities: "cost less to manufacture than ..." and "using expensive paper stock..." are relative term, which is not definitive.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (US 2003/0006121A1).

Re claim 1, Lee et al. disclose a passive radio frequency identification (RFID) system for identifying and tracking currency. Figure 1 shows a currency (2) including a passive RFID transponder (3 or 8) which communicates wirelessly with a transceiver (4) to communicate the serial number, currency value, and any other identifying characteristics desired of the passive RFID transponder. A computer server (6) and/or database management system 7 maintains a database for tracking and comparing the currency data for summing total amounts of currency, authenticate currency for counterfeit detection if desired, for banking transactions, business transactions, etc.

Re claim 2, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, where the system will reduce the time it takes to count paper currency and improve the accuracy of counting paper currency. (FIG. 3 shows an immigration custom check point where the currency 2 carried by an individual 5 is scanned by transceiver 4. The mechanism is the same as FIG. 2 for the transmittal of information. It should be noted that a computer 6 is used to process the information received by the transceiver 4. A suitcase or any other type of

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baggage could also be easily scanned at a checkpoint. Besides giving the amount of currency, if the system is hooked into a central data base management system 7, an immediate feedback will be available on the legitimacy of the currency. The computer 6 can also be connected to alert security personnel or police if currency anomaly is detected. The individual does not even have to take out his/her wallet.).

Re claim 3, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, where the system will significantly reduce the time it takes to sort paper currency and improve the currency of sorting paper currency. (FIG. 4 indicates a system similar to FIGS. 2 and 3, but for keeping an accurate and real-time count of the amount of currency 2 within a bank vault 9. Again the mechanism is the same for the transfer of information as noted in the previous two figures. A wireless transceiver 4 reads the information on the currency 2 and sends the information to a computer 6 for analysis. In addition, the financial institution can use the system for summing of currency during a customer transaction thereby reducing errors and person-hours in reviewing and authenticating the currency.)

Re claim 4, Lee et al. disclose a passive radio frequency identification (RFID) system for identifying and tracking currency. The RFID tags will declare a unique assigned number (serial number; The inventive device includes (1) a paper-like passive RFID transponder which could be embedded in a currency or used as the currency itself, and which contains encrypted/non-encrypted electronic bits of data (serial number, currency amounts, etc.) to uniquely identify said currency, (2) a transceiver for wireless interrogation of the transponder, (3) a computer server and/or database management system that is used for currency authentication to a known currency

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information database.) that cannot be duplicated or counterfeited without detection of such on said paper currency.).

Re claim 5, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 4 stated above, where the system will be a more reliable means for identifying counterfeit paper currency and will significantly reduce counterfeit paper currency (Figure 1 shows a currency (2) including a passive RFID transponder (3 or 8) which communicates wirelessly with a transceiver (4) to communicate the serial number, currency value, and any other identifying characteristics desired of the passive RFID transponder. A computer server (6) and/or database management system 7 maintains a database for tracking and comparing the currency data for summing total amounts of currency, authenticate currency for counterfeit detection if desired, for banking transactions, business transactions, etc.).

Re claim 6, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 4 stated above, the system will permit the exchange of paper currency to be traced thereby helping tracking the source counterfeit paper currency and helping track lost or stolen paper currency. (FIG. 4 indicates a system similar to FIGS. 2 and 3, but for keeping an accurate and real-time count of the amount of currency 2 within a bank vault 9. Again the mechanism is the same for the transfer of information as noted in the previous two figures. A wireless transceiver 4 reads the information on the currency 2 and sends the information to a computer 6 for analysis. In addition, the financial institution can use the system for summing of currency during a customer transaction thereby reducing errors and person-hours in reviewing and authenticating the currency.).

Re claim 7, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 4 stated above, the system will cost less to manufacture than current paper currency using expensive paper stock and color patterns to deter counterfeit paper currency. (The passive RFID transponder is paper-like, robust, and could be printed as a currency, or embedded in a currency.)

Re claim 8, Lee et al. disclose a passive radio frequency identification (RFID) system and method for identifying and tracking currency. The method comprising the steps of:

building a national and/or global clearinghouse to manage a database for certain transaction files (paragraph [0018]);

putting one or more bar codes and/or one or more radio frequency identification (RFID) tags on the paper currency (Fig. 1) and/or personal checks and/or corporate checks and/or bank checks and/or payroll checks and/or credit cards and/or debit cards and/or birth certificates and/or student ID's and/or social security cards and/or driver's licenses and/or visas and/or passports and/or airport baggage and/or train baggage and/or bus baggage (FIG. 3 shows an immigration custom check point where the currency 2 carried by an individual 5 is scanned by transceiver 4. The mechanism is the same as FIG. 2 for the transmittal of information. It should be noted that a computer 6 is used to process the information received by the transceiver 4. A suitcase or any other type of baggage could also be easily scanned at a checkpoint. Besides giving the amount of currency, if the system is hooked into a central data base management system 7, an immediate feedback will be available on the legitimacy of the currency. The computer 6 can also be connected to alert security personnel or police if currency anomaly is detected.);

scanning the paper currency (2) and/or personal checks and/or corporate checks and/or bank checks and/or payroll checks and/or credit cards and/or debit cards and/or birth certificates and/or student ID's and/or social security cards and/or driver's licenses and/or visas and/or passports and/or airport baggage and/or train baggage and/or bus baggage into a transaction file;

transmitting (wirelessly transmitting the RFID data) said transaction file via the Internet or any secure communication link to the clearinghouse (a computer server 6 and/or database management system 7); and

receiving approval or rejection of said transaction from the clearinghouse (a computer server 6 and/or database management system 7 to maintain a database for tracking and comparing the currency data for summing total amounts of currency, authenticate currency for counterfeit detection if desired, for banking transactions, business transactions, etc.).

Re claim 9, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 8 stated above, wherein the method reduces counterfeit items including paper currency (2) and/or personal checks and/or corporate checks and/or bank checks and/or payroll checks and/or credit cards and/or debit cards and/or birth certificates and/or student ID's and/or social security cards and/or driver's licenses and/or visas and/or passports (The RFID tag can be embedded to any paper currency or document. It can also be used alone by itself.).

Re claim 10, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 8 stated above, wherein the method increases the safety of airline, tram or bus travel, or car rental or truck rental (See Fig. 3 and paragraph [0021]).

Re claim 11, Lee et al. discloses the passive RFID system as recited in rejected claim 8 stated above, wherein the method reduces lost and/or stolen baggage at airports and/or train stations and/or bus terminals (See Fig. 3 and paragraph [0021]).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Murdoch et al. (US 20060226955 A1) discloses RFID tag for parcel, document, or postal handling system for identifying and tracking an item.

Smith (US 6,092,731) discloses a coin-currency wrapper with a printed barcode for tracking and inventory purposes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 5:30a-2:00p (Maxi-Flex*).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

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like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp